

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved For Release 2001/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R007900700007-5

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL~~ - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Spain

DATE DISTR. 13 June 1951

SUBJECT Background of
Vitoria Strike

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1C

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1X

DATE OF
INFO. [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

The following account of the strike in the city of Vitoria which took place in early May 1951 [REDACTED]

25X1X

25X1X

1. On 2 May a strike broke out at a small factory in Vitoria. The cause was apparently the usual complaint: the high cost of living. This incident was of little importance in itself as it affected only a small number of workmen, but the Civil Governor took a serious view of the matter and ordered the arrest of the manager of the factory. He also declared that the workmen involved would lose all their seniority rights, and would be required to sign new labor contracts before being re-admitted to work.
2. This attitude on the part of the Civil Governor gave rise to general ill-feeling on the part of the workmen and the management. Consequently, the strike spread on 3 May and was complete throughout the industrial section of town by 4 and 5 May. On these days store clerks were also on strike, although most stores were obliged to remain open.
3. The Civil Governor announced that all those who did not return to work immediately would be deprived of their rights. However, on 5 May the Labor Delegate informed the workers that the Civil Governor was prepared to withdraw the sanctions imposed if all employees returned to their jobs on 7 May.
4. On the morning of 7 May all, or at least most, of the men reported for work, but were confronted by armed guards posted at the entrance to each factory or workshop. The workers were told that they would not be allowed to return to work unless they signed new labor contracts. Printed leaflets were also distributed stating that the Civil Governor intended to enforce the sanctions he had imposed on the strikers.
5. Most workmen refused to sign and stayed out on 7 May. On being confronted with this new development, the Civil Governor ordered wholesale arrests, which were carried out in the streets and completely at random. By the evening of 7 May about 400 men had been arrested and were being held under guard at the bullring. Later, some or possibly all these men were trans-

25X1X

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL~~ - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION													
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI															

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of [REDACTED] from the Director of Central Intelligence, dated [REDACTED].
Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

Approved For Release 2001/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R007900700007-5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Document No. [REDACTED]
No Change in Class. [REDACTED]
No Declassification [REDACTED]
Class. Changed To: [REDACTED]
Date: 2/27/28 By: [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ / CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

ferred to the concentration camp at Manclares de la Oca, located about 12 kilometers from Vitoria.

6. On the following day, 3 May, all the men had returned to work, presumably signing new contracts, and seemingly impressed by the number of arrests. Vitoria has a small industrial population and the proportion of arrests was very high. The fact that the individuals arrested were taken to the bullring and later to Manclares de la Oca also caused the impression that they would be held for a long period, and this undoubtedly also had its effect on the workers, [REDACTED]. Actually, almost all of those arrested were released by 12 May.

25X1X

7. On the night of 11 May about a dozen persons were arrested in Vitoria. [REDACTED] the arrests were caused by the fact that the authorities were trying to prevent leakage of news of the strike to foreign broadcasting stations.

25X1A

25X1A

3. A Spanish oppositionist in direct contact with the Vitoria strikers reported that on 4 May about 15,000 workers were out on strike. On that day the police had arrested 60 persons. Those arrested were well treated by the police of Vitoria, but reinforcements called in from Manclares de la Oca on 5 May used strong arm tactics in dealing with the strikers. Among those arrested on 5 May were a number of women and children and a Catholic priest, Victoriano ARISTI, who was accused of organizing a group of strikers belonging to the Hermandad Obrera de Accion Catolica. [REDACTED] the Communists neither helped to organize nor participated in the strike. Although the workers originally had decided not to strike until 7 May, the occurrence of small strikes prior to that date reportedly forced Basque union leaders to change their plans and to advance the strike date to 5 May.

25X1X

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ / CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL